As a self-proclaimed music snob, there is nothing worse to hear than “I like music” from someone with no clue. A real music lover isn’t afraid to admit that they love music. They eat, sleep, breath, and more importantly, the understand music. Music might seem like a simple idea, but it isn’t until you understand what it does that you realize its importance. Music is more than a set of sounds that make you dance, but it’s also a manipulator – able to alter a person’s mood by something as simple as a key change. Music is a medicine, aiding anyone from anxiety patients to autistic children. Most importantly, music is a connector of people --- an instant community creator. It’s hard for me to imagine just liking music. Surely these people who only “like” music just don’t know all that it does.  
 In high school I began to learn about music theory. It was amazing to me that something with so many rules could be so enjoyable. No one ever stops to think that their favorite pop song started on a scale, written on either the Major or Minor scale. On that scale there had to be a key signature, and notes with the proper dictation. There had to be notes and scales for the cool beats in the background. What’s most amazing of all is that all these rules were decided in the times of the ancient Greek, and have more than outlasted the test of time. Without these rules, also known as music theory, there could be no music. It may start with theory, but the way the composer uses it, that is really important. Music is written to evoke emotions. The composer has the power to bring a crowd to laughter, or tears by only changing the tempo. Just as a writer evokes emotion with his words, a composer tells the listener what to feel just by changing the mood of the song. This gives the average composer the power to manipulate groups of people into feeling and doing what they want.  
 There is a whole medicine field dedicated to the power of music. In music therapy, the manipulative power of music is used to calm or excite patients as desired – using only the emotions that comes from the reactions of the music as the medicine. There is no need to test the music for fear of side effects, because there are none. Music acts only with the brain waves, meaning the worst thing that could happen is losing oneself to the music in public and causing a little dancing. But ultimately that could be controlled too, because there is no chemical drug in music. The best part of using music as a medicine is that music is not a chemical drug. Music cannot render one incoherent, one can listen to music and operate heavy machinery, and I’ve never heard of somebody losing their house and home due to addiction to music – because music is not a narcotic. Although it isn’t a narcotic, or crazy drug, it is still strong enough to calm down and comfort the autistic. Although it is powerful, anyone can afford it. The freedom to sing and express oneself through sound is 100% free. It’s free to turn on the radio and listen to all the top hits one can handle. Anyone can make music, and one can listen to music, and everyone can enjoy music, all for nothing but the enjoyment of music itself.  
 Most importantly of all, music means community. Music can bring people together in many different ways. There is no easier bond than those between musicians. The simple grounds of passion for creating music and sharing it with each other are more than enough for an instant friendship. Music artists make their living by putting on concerts, a way to bring people of many different walks of life into one room for one reason; to enjoy music. That fandom won’t just stay in that room, they’ll go out to the world, advertising the music with t-shirts. They’ll come together online in chat rooms, bringing friends together from across country to enjoy music as one. Music festivals will bring these people together to enjoy and expose them to new bands in a neverending cycle.  
 Music is such a basic part of life, people forget to stop and think about all that it is. But to someone who chooses to live music, it’s so much more than come chords and a beat. It is more important than just sound or a hobby. A true music lover knows that music is the complex theory that has lasted millions of years. Music is the power to mold human feelings with compositions, or calm the autistic. Music is in the world around us, and to musicians, music is the reason we have friends. Music is more than what you hear on the radio. Music is a way of life.

Hello Brooklyn! Again, I can tell you are passionate about music, which is good. You do a good job of describing what music is made how, what it is used for, and how it spreads and brings together people. I like the paragraph about how music can be a therapeutic tool that doesn’t have chemicals, but I find myself arguing with some of your explanations for how they differ and why music is better. Other than that, feel free to look over any of the questions I ask along the side and possibly reread the paper for spelling and grammar errors.

Hope you had/are having a good weekend! Jamie